

WASHINGTON.

An Active Movement in Financial Questions.

SURPRISES IN THE TWO PARTIES.

Mr. Bayard Moves the Repeal of the Legal Tender Clause.

BAD OUTLOOK FOR SHERMAN'S PLAN.

Opposition to Retirement of Greenbacks--The Silver Question.

An Executive Weakening which Causes Surprise.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1879.

THE LEGAL TENDER CLAUSE.—MR. BAYARD'S JOINT RESOLUTION FOR ITS REPEAL.—VIEWS OF THE DELAWARE SENATOR.—PROSPECTS OF THE MEASURE IN THE SENATE.

The session opens at once. Those who thought it would lack interest or importance are mistaken. Senator Bayard today took the currency bill by the horns. He introduced a joint resolution for the repeal of the legal tender clause in these words:—

Resolved, etc., That from and after the passage of this resolution the Treasury notes of the United States shall be receivable for all dues to the United States, excepting duties on imports, and shall not be otherwise a legal tender, and any of said notes hereafter issued shall bear this inscription.

The resolution was referred, with his consent, to the Finance Committee, of which he is chairman, and it will be considered by that committee probably next Tuesday. Mr. Bayard is in earnest. He feels the urgent necessity of passing this measure as a means of safety to the country, and he will not let it slumber in committee. It will be reported to the Senate before the holidays and it promises to have the support of almost all the democratic Senators and of a large number of the Republicans.

REPUBLICANS IN OPPOSITION.

It is a curious commentary upon the republican professions of devotion to a sound currency that Senator Ingalls followed Mr. Bayard by introducing a joint resolution declaring that the legal tender quality of the greenbacks ought not to be interfered with. The following is the text of the resolution:—

Resolved, etc., That in the opinion of the Senate, the present value of United States notes should not be reduced, and that said notes ought to continue to be a legal tender in the payment of debts.

This is the third to the same effect from the republican side since Congress came together. Messrs. Price, of Iowa, and Fort, of Illinois, having offered similar resolutions in the House yesterday.

MR. BAYARD ON HIS RESOLUTION.

Mr. Bayard said today, in conversation with your correspondent, concerning his resolution:—

"I think it is a necessary step at this time. It is just the right time to set the first apprehensions of the country at rest on so vital a point. The present is an hour of hope, confidence and public health. The credit of the government, borne up on a sea of compulsory confidence, unaided by any exertion of compulsory power, a suggestion of stress or necessity, keeps its promissory demand notes easily at par. We run no risk in doing right at this time. But, independent of the constitution and its limitations, this step will make sense doubly sure and clinch resumption of specie payments as a fact. The repeal of the legal tender quality of the government notes will disperse and dispel the vague haunting fears of a possible recurrence of the fluctuations, uncertainties and miseries of a depreciated paper currency. There will be no further fear of redundancy because, if this resolution is passed, no one can thereafter be compelled to accept a currency depreciated by reason of its redundancy.

In continuing his remarks Mr. Bayard said:—

"So far from checking our current of hopeful and confident prosperity this measure will stimulate and encourage it, because the only unaccounted plank will have been removed and all business will be felt thereafter to have a solid basis.

NOT FORTHE CONTRACT.

"To repeat the legal tender quality of the greenbacks is no measure of forcible contraction. It does not interfere with the question of Treasury notes or bank notes, or the volume of either, nor with the banking system, but it gives the old fashioned democratic bed rock of security to every enterprise, and insures safety to every contract, however long maturing, which has money for its measure. In other words, this is a measure of stability, of honesty and good government in the simplest and strongest sense of the word. Every industrious and frugal depositor in a savings bank will feel his little hoard more secure and capital will more confidently venture to extend itself in new enterprises and in loans at low rates of interest because the principal will no longer be felt in danger of depreciation. I believe the adoption of this measure worth a score of resumption acts, because it is resumption itself.

SOME OF THE GOOD EFFECTS.

"It will render the present loose and highly dangerous discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury in the issue and sale of government bonds entirely unnecessary, and allow us to put a stop to it. The Supreme Court will no longer be burdened with the responsibility of declaring the action of Congress unconstitutional and a calmer and cooler condition of the public mind will be created. I hold it to be a simple and complete solution of our most perplexing affairs."

Your correspondent asked Mr. Bayard:—"How do you think your resolution will be received by your party?" He replied:—

"I do not believe that any democrat can object to a measure so thoroughly consistent with every democratic profession, and if I sought for signs of strong expression and conservative argument to sustain the principle of the resolution I should look for them in the speeches and arguments of every democratic leader, without exception, who represented his party at the time when currency was had to irredeemable legal tender paper money in 1861.

In conclusion Mr. Bayard said:—"If this resolution is passed I believe the people of this country can sleep more soundly and safely and wake up and find their property not lessened in value."

PROSPECTS FOR THE RESOLUTION.

The prospect is that Mr. Bayard's resolution will have the support of every democrat with perhaps one exception on the Finance Committee and of several republicans. The committee consists of Senators Bayard, Kernan, Wallace, Voorhees and Beck, democrats, and Morrill, Ferry, Jones and Allison, republicans. Of the republicans it is supposed that Messrs. Jones, of Nevada, and Ferry may oppose the resolution. Messrs. Morrill and Allison are thought safe for its support. There has, however, been no polling of the committee and it is not impossible that the republicans may determine in caucus to support the measure bodily, with possibly some amendments. At present they feel themselves embarrassed because a considerable number of their Representatives and Senators, Western men, are strongly opposed to any action whatever on the currency. They say the President and Secretary Sherman have "put the party right on the record," that nothing ought to be done at this session of Congress. The resolutions of Messrs. Ingalls, Fort and Price all point in this direction. As to the democratic Senator Bayard is right in saying that all their leading men are on record in opposition to making paper money legal tender, among them Messrs. Thurman, Pendleton, Voorhees and others.

FEELING AMONG THE SOUTHERNERS.

After Mr. Bayard had introduced his resolution

this afternoon several Southern Senators, in conversation, declared it right, and that they would support it among them Senator Garfield, of Arkansas, one of the most influential of the Southern men. Hampton and Butler, of South Carolina, are counted for it. General Gordon, it is believed, will support it strongly, and it will undoubtedly have the support of Senator Lamar, who is detained at home by the severe illness of his son.

THE WARRIOR SILVER BILL.

The absurd Warner Silver bill has the precedence of Mr. Bayard's resolution in the committee on unfinished business from the last session, but the ardor of the unlimited silver men has cooled off a good deal during the fall. It is not probable that the bill will be pushed by any men of influence as it was at the extra session, when Speaker Randall was one of the most persistent of those who pressed the committee for a favorable report. Mr. Randall is less zealous for it now and so are many others, and it is not improbable that the committee will consent to consider the resolution of their chairman (Mr. Bayard) at once and before any other business. Sound money republicans, such as Mr. Chittenden and Mr. Morton, are greatly delighted at the action of Mr. Bayard, and Mr. Chittenden said to-night that it was the most statesmanlike act of the day, and that if the Southern men would range themselves along side of Mr. Bayard or help him to repeal the Legal Tender act they would strike a fatal blow at the sections, divisions in politics, from which they suffer the most.

RECOMMENDATIONS THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY DO NOT WANT CARRIED OUT.

A good deal of surprise has been created this afternoon by reports of conversations held by the President and Secretary Sherman with two republican Congressmen on the currency question, in which both President and Secretary are reported to have said that they are not anxious to see Congress act in accordance with their recommendations concerning the withdrawal of the greenbacks or the repeal of the legal tender clause. The President's conversation was with Mr. Fort, of Illinois, the author of the resolution introduced yesterday, declaring it imperative to withdraw the greenbacks or repeal the legal tender clause, and friends with whom Mr. Fort has spoken as that he left the White House much pleased with the President's conversation, and that the President assured him that he did not desire any action at this session to carry out the recommendations of the Finance Committee in relation to the currency. He regretted what he said only the saying down of a sound principle for the future. Secretary Sherman is reported to have said substantially the same thing to Mr. Crapo, of Massachusetts.

Mr. Fort said this evening to a HERALD reporter that when he read the President's Message and thought over the suggestions in regard to making provision for the retirement of legal tenders he recalled the fact that over a year ago Congress passed a bill which the President signed, limiting the further contraction of the legal tender issue. Mr. Fort says he thought that if something was not done promptly the country would believe that the republican party acquiesced in the suggestion made in the Message, and to counteract any such impression he drew the resolution offered in the House yesterday, in which he purposely avoided including the question of the coinage of silver. To-day Mr. Fort called at the Executive Mansion, and the President took occasion to say that his object in introducing the subject of the currency into his Message was not to suggest immediate legislation, but to call attention to the fact that sooner or later the issue would have to be met. Mr. Fort replied that he had no idea of suggesting the administration, but that he wanted to have it understood that the part of the republican party to which he belonged did not agree to the suggestion or recommendation of the Message in relation to the withdrawal of the greenbacks or the repeal of the legal tender clause.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

As to silver the general impression on the democratic side today is that to continue the coinage of dollar for silver year can do no serious harm, and that it is not advisable at this session to touch the silver question in any shape. It may be, however, that a resolution to stop the coinage may be introduced from the republican side.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1879.

BERNARD WOOD ON THE FINANCIAL QUESTIONS.—OPPOSITION TO MR. SHERMAN'S REFUNDING SCHEME.—LOOKING AFTER THE SINKING FUND.—NO RETIREMENT OF GREENBACKS.

Bernard Wood, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, was found at his comfortable residence to-night and questioned regarding the financial situation. He responded freely. The talk was about like this:—"When will your committee meet?"

"To-morrow morning at eleven, and we have some very important matters to discuss. The fact is, and I have no hesitation in telling you, that I received a bill from the Secretary of the Treasury to-day that is so much against my feelings, that I went to General Garfield and asked him, as representing the administration, to introduce it."

"What was the bill?"

"You know there are about seven hundred and ninety millions of the six per cent bonds that will mature in 1880 and 1881. In order to meet those obligations and the demands of investors refunding is proposed. The Secretary in his bill asks for a four per cent bond, and he has some very objectionable details in it. I am steadily opposed to any bond that will carry with it more than three and a half per cent interest. It is all very well for administrative officers to claim the credit of general prosperity and a sound national credit, but no man or set of men in authority made it. Our bonds would be good if there had been only \$10,000 in the Treasury when Secretary Sherman commenced, or had any other intelligent man been in his place."

A THREE AND A HALF PER CENT BOND.

"So your committee proposes a 3½ per cent bond?"

"The committee, I know, will not go beyond that, and I am satisfied that neither the House nor Senate will. Congress means, I am sure, to make a 3½ per cent refunding bond, and make it so available that the Secretary can take advantage of favorable circumstances, while at the same time we propose to limit the Secretary's authority in some important respects."

WHAT ELASTICITY OF ACTION WILL YOU GIVE HIM?

"We propose to prohibit him from selling another four per cent bond under any circumstances. That liberty which he now has shall imperatively stop. Then we propose that he shall take \$100,000,000 of his coin and hold it awaiting opportunities to buy bonds. His coin lies idle and should be used. We propose also that there shall be no failure in refunding from a lack of opportunity. It is our intention to pass a refunding bill as soon as possible and give the \$100,000,000 of coin to use with the bonds, but no bill can pass that gives more than a 3½ per cent bond."

IS IT TRUE, AS STATED TO-DAY, THAT SECRETARY SHERMAN PUT UP A MAN OF STRAW IN THE PROPOSITION TO RETIRE THE GREENBACKS AND SET FORT AND INGALLS AT THE BUSINESS OF KNOCKING HIM DOWN?

NO RETIREMENT OF GREENBACKS.

"I do not know, but I should not be surprised at anything. You may say, however, that the Committee of Ways and Means—I have talked with most of the members—will never adopt the Secretary's recommendations to retire greenbacks. On the contrary, they seem to favor positive action that will prohibit him from transacting such business. The Supreme Court will soon settle the legal tender question, but how is yet to be seen."

TREASURY HIGH OFFICIALS.

"What do you think of the President's recommendation asking definite action with regard to the sinking fund?"

"I regard it as unworthy of such high officials as himself and the Secretary. The law is so severely worded that it requires the Secretary to pay the sinking fund before he pays his own salary or mine. The act of February 25, 1862, requires him to collect the customs duties in coin and apply the coin first to the payment of interest on the public debt and second

to the sinking fund, but Mr. Chase and every Secretary since neglected that fund."

"It is a shame, and it is very neglected."

"Yes, and that is why they have neglected it."

"How about suspending it till we catch up?"

"No, that would never do. You see these questions of refunding bonds for instance, never created excitement. The business is so fast and can be so smoothly accomplished that few people know or try to know about it. But you take the matter of suspending the sinking fund and it might injure our credit temporarily, because it would take a long time to explain it. But there is no necessity for doing that anyway."

"What do you propose to do about it?"

"There is a bill pending in our committee which proposes to take arbitrarily from the Treasury \$100,000 each year. This would be applied to the payment of interest on the public debt, whatever that might be, and afterward the remainder, whatever that might be, would go to the sinking fund. I favor that bill and it may be passed."

"Will you have much financial legislation this year?"

"I believe the people want as little financial legislation as possible. I believe they want the greenbacks let alone and that they want a low refunding bond passed. The silver question may be a fruitful source of discussion."

THE FEDERAL ELECTION LAWS—AMENDMENTS TO BE PROPOSED.

A proposition is being discussed among the democratic members of the House, in regard to the election laws and the questions involved in the extra session, which seems to meet with favor among democrats North and South. The proposition is that the election laws shall be so amended as to provide that the general and special deputy marshals of elections shall be residents of the voting precincts in which their duties are to be performed, and that they shall be appointed only upon the order of a United States Court and upon the written recommendation of the candidates for Congress at the election, and an equal number to be appointed from each party; that the marshals shall not make any arrests except upon warrants issued in pursuance of law. This is the substance of the proposition which is proposed to attach to the bill making appropriation for the pay of United States marshals and their deputies. It has been submitted to the leading men of the party, and it is understood will be adopted. At the last session objection was made to recognizing the validity of the Election law by amending it in any form. It appears that that sentiment has disappeared, and the object now is to secure the fairest administration of justice at the polls. It is contended that if arrests are not made except upon warrant of law and the representatives of both parties see that only good, responsible men are appointed to perform the duty of protecting the purity of the ballot, all that the democracy desires to obtain will be gained by the adoption of the above proposed law, which is an appropriation for the payment of marshals and their deputies.

THE U.S. MUST GO—MOVEMENT TO OBTAIN POSSESSION OF THE GREAT RESERVATION.

The U.S. must go from Colorado, at least so says Judge Belton, of the Supreme Court, who has just delivered the opinion of the court in the case of the United States vs. the Indians of the Far West. Speedy action will be demanded upon the bill introduced yesterday to appoint a commission for the removal of the Indians from their reservation, and in order that needed information may be at hand a resolution was offered to-day calling upon the Secretary of the Interior for all correspondence with Agent Meeker, General Hatch, General Adams and Special Agent Pollock in relation to affairs at the White River Agency since the 1st day of January last. It is predicted that unless Congress takes speedy action there will be trouble in and about the reservation next spring, because its area is too large and there is too much wealth in it to allow it to be occupied by the Indians. Judge Belton's contempt for the establishment of another reservation in the Territory of Colorado, and the fact that the Indians are looking forward to the time when their Territories will become States, and say they do not wish to have their people embarrassed and harassed by any more Indians than are now within the limits of their respective Territories. The remedy they propose is to send all the Indians to the Indian Territory, to enlarge its area if need be, and by positive legislative enactment to guard it for all time against the encroachment of the whites.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3, 1879.

MR. SHERMAN'S FUNDING OPERATIONS—BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

Two bills were introduced in the House to-day, regarding future funding operations of the government—one by Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, entitled, "An Act to Facilitate the Refunding of the National Debt," and another by Mr. Wood, of New York, entitled, "An Act Respecting the Refunding of the National Debt." The difference in the titles of the bills indicates the difference in their scope. Mr. Wood's bill merely limits the maximum rate of interest on future interest bearing refunded bonds at three and one-half per cent per annum. Mr. Garfield's bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to begin at once and issue four per cent bonds in exchange for outstanding and uncalled bonds bearing a higher rate of interest than four per cent. It is understood that this bill was prepared at the Treasury Department by Secretary Sherman, and contains all the provisions that he deems necessary to enable him to carry on successfully the work of refunding the \$600,000,000 of five and six per cent bonds, which fall due in 1881. The following is the full text of Mr. Garfield's bill:—

That all existing provisions of all law authorizing the refunding of the national debt shall apply to any bonds hereafter issued by the Secretary of the Treasury in exchange for the bonds of the Treasury which are hereby authorized in the process of refunding the national debt, to exchange directly or indirectly for bonds of the United States bearing interest at four per cent per annum, of the description authorized by the act of July 14, 1870, entitled "An Act to authorize the refunding of the national debt," and acts amendatory thereof. For any bonds of the United States outstanding and interest on the same at a higher rate of interest, and in any such exchange interest may be allowed on the bonds so redeemed at the rate of three per cent, and whenever any of the bonds so redeemed bear interest at five or six per cent per annum the Secretary of the Treasury may allow to the holders, in lieu of the three per cent interest provided for above, the difference between the interest on such bonds from the date of the exchange to the time of redemption, and the interest on the four per cent bonds for a like period. Authority to issue such four per cent bonds to the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this act is hereby granted.

The full text of Mr. Wood's bill is as follows:—

Be it enacted, That so much of the authority conferred on the Secretary of the Treasury by the acts of July 14, 1870, and August 20, 1871, to refund the public debt to the extent of \$1,000,000,000 as has not been exhausted and executed be and the same is hereby modified so as to limit the rate of interest on bonds to be issued as authorized by these acts to a rate of interest not to exceed three and a half per cent per annum.

PURCHASE OF GOVERNMENT BONDS—CIRCULAR FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The following circular in relation to the purchase of United States bonds for the sinking fund was issued this afternoon:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 2, 1879.

The Secretary of the Treasury hereby gives notice that proposals for the sale to the government of \$1,000,000 of any of the six per cent interest bearing bonds of the United States, known as the "Sixes of 1881," will be received at the Treasury Department, or at the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at New York until noon of Saturday, the 6th inst., at which time the bonds will be sold to the highest bidder, and the bonds thus purchased to be applied to the sinking fund, as provided in section 3,084 of the Revised Statutes of the United States. The proposals should state the specific character of the bonds offered, whether registered or coupon, and under what conditions the bonds will be sold. The minimum amount not less than \$5,000. The offer may be for the sale of the bonds, with accrued interest and including the 6th inst., and each proposal must enclose a certified check for five per cent of the amount of the bonds offered. The checks of unsuccessful bidders will be returned as soon as the time for the sale of the bonds has expired. The following business day, when the bonds must be delivered, and the payment in lawful money will be made. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive any defects.

JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary.

MORGAN'S REVOLUTION.

The Legislature Reorganized by the "Liberals."

GOVERNOR HOLLIDAY ON HONESTY.

Maimed Ex-Confederates Giving Place to Negro Office Seekers.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 3, 1879.

The recent political upheaval in Virginia culminated to-day in a grand triumph of the readjusters, or the liberal party as some now call them. All the efforts to break the lines of the colored members, by persuasion, by the influence of the administration or by purchase, if any was attempted, which I now doubt, failed. Every colored member and all the republicans with the exception of the State Senate and the House and two in the Senate—voted with the readjusters, giving them their majority of 16 in the House and 8 in the Senate, making 24 on joint ballot. In the very beginning, too, the new party proceeded to carry out the programme which was first published in the HERALD on the 11th of November last, as the result of an interview between Colonel William E. Cameron and your correspondent. This policy, as then defined, guaranteeing the negro his full political rights under the constitutions of the State and the United States, including the repeal of the payment of a capitation tax as a prerequisite for voting, was reiterated last night in a set of resolutions read in the caucus of the liberals. In furtherance of it they began to-day, the most important measure of the day, the reorganization of both branches of the General Assembly by the election of readjusters and their new political allies, the republicans, to the offices. There were eight officials elected, four of whom were republicans, and two of the latter called out at that. The nominations were made in brief speeches, and the votes were cast with the greatest unanimity and regularly until every office of the Legislature was newly filled.

A REBEL HOWL.

The debt party's wing of the late conservative party was prepared for defeat this morning, but when it came to electing a negro to fill the place of a one-legged ex-Confederate, who had also proved a most efficient officer, it was among the colored members that a howl of indignation was raised. The Confederate flag was waved to no purpose. The negro went in, and with expressions of sincere sympathy for the colored members, and with the other the poor ex-Confederate limped out. Among the defeated officials to-day is also a one-legged ex-Confederate. Ever since the war, whenever an office has been vacant, it has only been necessary to put forward an ex-Confederate soldier who had fought at Gettysburg and had been wounded to him. Under the revolution of sentiment which has taken place it now seems as if service on Southern battle fields in the rebel ranks would in future disqualify a man for office. The younger generation of politicians which has grown up since the war is in fact tired of the "war record" cry which has proved so successful in previous elections.

DECAPITATION TO CONTINUE.

The process of decapitation which commenced to-day will result in the chief officers of the State will be summarily ejected and their places filled with members of the new political party. These include the Governor, the Commissioner of the State, the Superintendent of Public Buildings, Superintendent of Public Printing, Commissioner of Railroads and the judges of the Supreme Court. The latter appoint the judges of elections.

The process of the republican party on the debt question is peculiar. In 1871 every member of that party in the General Assembly, with one exception, voted solidly for the McCulloch settlement. One of the reasons for this was the fact that the McCulloch settlement was a payment of six per cent, with the coupon receivable for taxes. In 1879 the readjusters, through the aid of the republicans, secured the election of a new party. The new party in the present General Assembly, are opposing the payment of a much smaller rate of interest on the McCulloch settlement. The new party are the McCulloch bill. The new party are the McCulloch bill. The new party are the McCulloch bill.

REPEALING THE BONDHOLDERS.

Action of this sort would not be tolerated under the ordinary methods of legal procedure. But the revolution like the present people are prepared for anything. They will pass a three per cent bill, and they will pass it on an emergency basis, running for five years, and by a new assessment of the property they will reduce the revenues of the State. They will then take the appropriate measures to pay the public schools and to secure the prompt payment of all the other public funds, and by issuing tax receivable certificates at fifty per cent of the dollar they will be enabled to reach the coupon of the bondholders. In this way the State's creditors will be forced into any settlement that the readjusters choose. The new party has the democracy shown a bolder front or a more courageous determination to "face the music" than now.

TALK OF VICTORIES AND VANQUISHED.

At the Exchange Hotel, the headquarters of the late conservative party, are congregated to-night a number of the old-time republicans, who were wont to be so full of victory, but who now have to reorganize after a Waterloo defeat. General John Echols, ex-Secretary of the State, and General John Mahone, ex-Secretary of the State, are among the others of equal note admit that they have been "eaten" out of the State offices, but say that they hope to retrieve their position.

They assert that Mahone and his supporters have gone over bodily to the republicans, and have done it in such a manner that the republicans will be enabled to pay the debt of the State. They say that Mahone and his supporters have gone over bodily to the republicans, and have done it in such a manner that the republicans will be enabled to pay the debt of the State. They say that Mahone and his supporters have gone over bodily to the republicans, and have done it in such a manner that the republicans will be enabled to pay the debt of the State.

A CRISIS STORM.

It was said yesterday by some very prominent members of the democratic party, now in this city, that the State Board of Canvassers would make no unusual exertions to secure Mr. Potter's election. "All the members of the Board," remarked one gentleman, "with the exception of young Mr. Seymour, were defeated at the last election. Each, I think, thought and considered that it would be unwise to support a man who had been defeated by the people of the State, and these gentlemen will not be disposed to work very hard to insure the election of a man who has been defeated by the people of the State. They will not be disposed to work very hard to insure the election of a man who has been defeated by the people of the State. They will not be disposed to work very hard to insure the election of a man who has been defeated by the people of the State."

A TURBULENT ELECTION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 3, 1879.

The municipal election that took place here to-day was the most exciting contest that has occurred in many years. There were no nominations. R. H. May and Charles Estes, the opposing candidates for Mayor, were both democrats. The vote was the largest ever registered, and as the negroes were nearly equal in strength to the whites, there was a fierce struggle in every ward to obtain their votes.

Early this morning barbed wire was provided for them at various places, and when they had finished eating they were decorated with badges and marched in procession to the polls, preceded by bands of music. In the fourth ward, where the largest vote was polled and where the most turbulent spirits reside, there were a great many difficulties between white men and negroes. The supporters of different candidates, and about twelve hundred men, who at one time threatened to assume formidable proportions, were engaged in a fierce struggle. A man named Walker was shot in the back and is believed to be dangerously wounded. Another man named Freeman was hit with a knife plunged into his eye and was dangerously injured. Several other men were wounded with sticks and clubs, but the police managed to restore order and to arrest the men charged with shooting and stabbing.

May was elected Mayor over six hundred majority. Bonfires are blazing on the streets to-night. A Chinaman voted for Estes to-day, and one of the transients who stay in the hotel, a Chinese laborer, was elected.

IT IS CARRIED BY NEGROES.

THE STATE VOTE.

STATEMENTS OF THE BALLOTS CAST FOR STATE OFFICERS AS RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 3, 1879.

The following are the footings of the returns of the late election as filed in the office of the Secretary of State for action by the Board of State Canvassers who will meet there on the 12th inst.:

GOVERNOR.

Cornell.....	29,296
Robinson.....	37,799
Kelly.....	77,956
Scattering.....	4,487
TOTAL.....	149,538

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

Hoskins.....	3,992
Potter.....	43,013
Scattering.....	4,922
TOTAL.....	51,927

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Carr.....	43,811
Hopkins.....	4,226
Scattering.....	4,905
TOTAL.....	52,942

COMPTROLLER.

Wadsworth.....	43,238
Allen.....	4,192
Scattering.....	3,900
TOTAL.....	51,330

TREASURER.

Wendell.....	47,382
Merritt.....	4,149
Scattering.....	5,603
TOTAL.....	57,134

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Warwick.....	47,382
Farrington.....	4,149
Scattering.....	5,603
TOTAL.....	57,134

STATE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Soule.....	42,580
Hooker.....	4,021
Scattering.....	5,351
TOTAL.....	51,952

The votes given to Hoskins and Potter include all defective and imperfect ballots which were plainly designed for either.

CITY POLITICIANS EXCITED OVER THE UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHO WILL BE DECLARED LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR—SENATOR PIERCE'S VIEWS—A CURIOUS STORY.

The excitement in political circles over the present uncertainty as to who will be the next Lieutenant Governor of the State was kept up all day yesterday. The views of leading democrats on the situation, as published in the HERALD for two days past, was eagerly canvassed on all sides. The democrats held that it was strictly within the province of the Board of State Canvassers to count the votes according as they believed them to be valid.

If the discharge of this duty they found it necessary to go behind the technical record transmitted to them by the election officers in the various counties, many claimed that they possessed all the requisite power to do so. On this latter proposition, however, there is a palpable division in the democratic ranks, the more conservative element of the party frankly acknowledging that the canvassers have no power whatever to go behind the official returns. The republicans appear to have cast off their aspect of affected indifference at the alleged contemplated action of the State Board to declare Mr. Potter elected. It is said that Senator Conkling has instructed some of his supporters to be vigilant and watchful that all the measures necessary to secure the final declaration of Mr. Hoskins' election. Some of the party leaders in different parts of the State have determined, it is said, to have cable connect attend the sessions of the State Board, which will hold its first session on the 12th inst. in the Secretary of State's office in Albany. The legal representatives will be instructed to strongly protest against any proposition that may be made to go behind the returns as filed, and will insist that the only proper method for Mr. Potter to pursue if he thinks he is entitled to the office is to sue a writ of quo warranto and have the question at issue settled in a court of law.

WHAT SENATOR PIERCE SAYS.

State Senator Pierce was called by the HERALD reporter yesterday in his office on Broadway. When asked if he thought Mr. Potter had any chance to obtain the office of Lieutenant Governor, he replied:—"That is a very broad question, and one extremely difficult to answer offhand. I have heard stories